(c) and (d) No, Sir. Gap in urban and rural literacy rate was 28.39 in 1991 and it reduced to 21.18 in 2001. To further bridge this gap, the new programme is being implemented only in rural areas of eligible districts.

Cut off marks for JEE

232. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to raise the minimum of 60 per cent marks in class XII Board to 80 percent for Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for admission to the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware that a high score in class XII depends on many social and external factors like the school, its facilities, etc. and students coming from rural and small town schools will not be eligible for appearing in JEE if the cut off marks is raised to 80 per cent; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Joint Admission Board (JAB), which consists of representatives from all the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad and Institute of Technology - Banaras Hindu University (IT-BHU) as well as a representative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, make recommendations in respect of matters relating to the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE). A Review Committee has been set up by the JAB to give its recommendations regarding factoring in of class XII results on a percentile basis while deciding admissions into IITs. Integrating of class XII results with JEE results, would help students with rural backgrounds to get admission into IITs by reducing their dependence on coaching. Variation in the results of various Boards would be taken care of by following the cut-off marks on percentile basis.

Lateral entry into colleges

233. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

DR. K. MALAISAMY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) proposes to allow lateral entry into college faculties at higher salaries to attract best brains to higher education in the country;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal of the UGC has since been cleared by Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and other steps Government proposes to take to make higher education attractive one in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) While there is no proposal with the University Grants Commission (UGC) for lateral entry in college faculties at higher salaries, posts of Professors have been introduced in Colleges to make the teaching profession more attractive. Ten percent of the number of sanctioned posts of Associate Professor in an Under Graduate College shall be that of Professors, provided that there shall not be more than one post of Professor in each Department. One-fourth (25%) of such posts shall be directly recruited or filled on deputation by eligible teachers and the remaining three-fourths (75%) of posts of Professors shall be filled by merit promotion from among eligible Associate Professors of the relevant department of the Under Graduate College. In Post-Graduate Colleges, there shall be one post of Professor in each Department and One-fourth (25%) of such posts shall be filled on deputation/direct recruitment from among eligible teachers and the remaining three-fourths (75%) of posts shall be filled through merit promotion from among the eligible Associate Professors in the relevant department of the Post-Graduate College. Improved career advancement opportunities with attractive pay package have been introduced for teachers in universities and colleges to attract talented persons in the teaching profession.

Recommendations of Fatimi Committee

234. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations of the Fatimi Committee in respect of education of minorities;

(b) the delails of the recommendations which have been implemented, those which are being implemented and those which Government proposes to implement; and

(c) the details of recommendations which Government does not intend to implement and the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The broad features of the plan of action suggested by the 'Fatmi Committee' is given in the enclosed Statement-I (*See* below). In pursuance of the said plan of action, the government has taken initiatives for the educational advancement of the Muslim Minority Community which are given in the enclosed Statement-II.